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22879 7590 12/12/2008 HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400				
EXAMINER DICKERSON, CHAD S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,189

Applicant(s)

NEWELL ET AL.

Examiner

CHAD DICKERSON

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/19/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 9/19/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the arguments on page 8, the applicant asserts that the reference of Pavlovic does not disclose the feature based on the admission of the Examiner by a portion stating "*The office Action states that the delivery order in Pavlovic is determined 'since the files are transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order' ". The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assertion.*

In the above mentioned quote, the Applicant believed that the system of evaluating said characteristics to independently determine a delivery order of said media sheets was not performed since the Examiner mentioned that the sheets after

printing would be delivered in an order that they were printed. However, the Examiner contends that despite the above assertion by the Examiner, the Pavlovic system still performs the feature of independently determining a delivery order of media sheets.

As disclosed in column 7, lines 28-50, the job description is received by the system control (108). The system control (108) is used to set up the relationship between the decomposition facility (110), buffer manager (120) and the marker (112). The system control (108) is used to evaluate, or analyze, the job description in order to identify specific tasks to be performed in the print system for yielding the desired output. For example, in column 8, lines 1-13, the system control (108) sends marker tasks to the marker (112) in order to communicate what data the marker should request from the buffer manager and what order to request the data. This is a clear example of the system control evaluating the information that characterizes the job, or job description, and the system control independently determining the manner in which to have print data transferred to the marker (112). Since transferring the printing information to the marker is the same as transferring the print information to the print hardware because the marker is the software component controlling the printing hardware for outputting the job (see col. 4, ln 1-17), the function of independently determining a transfer order of the media sheets is performed. Similar to Applicant's invention, the system control, analogous to the imaging component, is used to evaluate a job description and determine a printing system function, which is similar to Applicant's invention.

Also, the Examiner considered the finishing portion of the system as the output portion since the delivering of physical media sheets are determined by the delivery

order. The Pavlovic reference discloses having its system control (108) evaluate the job description in order to determine where the printed sheets will be delivered to. In other words, the Pavlovic reference determines based on the job description what tray to deliver printed sheets (see col. 6, In 4-40). The Applicant argued that the delivery order was tied to the transfer order. The Examiner interprets this as the determination by the system controller (108) to deliver sheets to a certain tray is affected by the decision to transfer a job in either a low-load or heavy load conditions (see how the conditions of jobs change the manner they are transferred col. 10, In 15-32). The Examiner sees no connection of how the media sheets being delivered to a certain tray has anything to do with the manner in which print information is delivered to the marker and printing hardware. In fact, the above quote by the Applicant just stated that the images that were transferred in a certain manner are output in a certain manner (N to 1). However, even this output does not have any effect on what tray, or output portion, the media sheets are to be delivered since description of the finishing requirement and the tray for depositing finished documents are two separate pieces of information in the job description.

Lastly, since the decision to pick a certain media sheet, transfer a job in different manners to the marker depending on the load conditions and to place a printed job on a certain output tray is based solely on the evaluation of the job description by the system control (108) and these determinations do not have any affect any of the above determinations, the Examiner believes that the pick, transfer and delivery order are all

performed independently of one another. Therefore, with the above explanation, the Examiner still believes that the Pavlovic reference reads on all of the claim features.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicant is trying to gain patent protection on a seemingly patentable method in claims 1 and 8. However, the method claims are non-statutory since the language in the body of the claims is not tied to an apparatus, machine or transforming article or material. It is recommended that the Applicant list the structure associated with the function in method claims 1 and 8. The claims 2-7 and 9-14 are rejected because of their dependency on a rejected claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pavlovic '379 (USP 5715379).

Re claim 8: Pavlovic '379 discloses a method of processing a print batch in a print device, comprising:

storing a print batch that includes a plurality of print jobs (i.e. Pavlovic '379 discloses the spool (106) being used to store the print job's PDL, which can include the actual image data to be printed and the job description. The files used to produce an image can be considered as a job since these separate files in different formats correspond to the formation of an individual image per file; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67);

evaluating characteristics of said print batch to independently determine a pick order (i.e. in the system, the system control evaluates, or interprets that specification of the job description and determines the type of media picked, or chosen, for the image to be printed on; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

picking media sheets according to said pick order (i.e. in accordance with the job description, the system control chooses the tray that contains the specified paper to be used in the feeding process for imaging. The function of picking from different types of sheets to be used for a print job is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61 and col. 6, ln 4-55);

evaluating said characteristics to independently determine a transfer order of said print jobs from a formatter to an imaging component (i.e. in the system, the decomposition facility (110) is considered to be the formatter since it is used to format incoming PDL into an uncompressed bitmap. The system control evaluates the job

description and determines which jobs from the buffer manager or the common image pool is to be transferred to the printer hardware (114). This decision of transferring the jobs to the printer hardware is based on the stream handles and the job description that affects the stream handles. In the conventional system, the decomposer is used to store the data that is RIPed and then transfer that information to the image forming part of the printing system. The system evaluates the job description and the data stream of the job information and decides based on these characteristics what job data is output to the printing hardware; see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42);

transferring said print jobs from said formatter to said imaging component based on said transfer order (i.e. In the conventional system, the decomposer is used to store the data that is RIPed and then transfer that information to the image forming part of the printing system. This performs the feature of transferring the jobs from the formatter to the imaging component in the printing system. In the overall invention, the jobs are transferred from the buffer manager or the common image pool to the printer hardware based on the transfer order decided by the system control using the stream handles concept and the information from the job description. The system evaluates the job description and the data stream of the job information and decides based on these characteristics what job data is output to the printing hardware. Depending on the load conditions of the print job, the jobs are transferred to the marker in a different manner; see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42);

forming images corresponding to said print jobs on media sheets (i.e. the printer hardware is used to form images that correspond to the print jobs on the sheets designated by the job description; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

evaluating said characteristics to independently determine a delivery order of said media sheets (i.e. in the system, when the job description is evaluated, or interpreted, by the system control, the order of delivery of the printed images from the printer to the finisher in the system is determined using the stream handling concept. Whichever stream handle is chosen first is the stream of data that is first printed and finished. However, the document finished is delivered to a certain tray based on the information gained from the job specification, which was evaluated by the system control (108); see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42); and

delivering said media sheets to an output portion of said print device based on said delivery order (i.e. in the system, the sheets that are printed are then delivered to the part of the printing system that performs the collation or stapling of the printed sheets; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61, col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein said print batch is stored on a data storage device of said formatter (i.e. in the conventional system, the decomposed print jobs can be stored on the buffer on the decomposer until it is requested by other

Art Unit: 2625

parts of the printing system. Used in the system of Pavlovic '379 is common image pools or buffer managers that can store more information to free up the decomposer; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 10: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein said characteristics comprise an image receiving media type, an image size, an image processing time, or an image forming time (i.e. the job description has the type of media that will receive the image; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61 and col. 6, ln 4-55).

Re claim 11: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein said characteristics are evaluated by an imaging component to determine said pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size of the paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

said transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the

example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and performs the transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42),

and said delivery order (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 12: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein a print engine picks said media sheets (i.e. in the system, the system control is in the printer system and printer hardware is used to feed the print media from a certain tray when the printer hardware is instructed by the system control; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, wherein a print engine forms said images and delivers said media sheets (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets and to deliver these images to the finisher part of the printing system to provide finishing capability to the sheets, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 8, forming said images includes using said imaging component to convert data contained in said print job to commands (i.e. in the system, the marker, is used to take the PDL that makes up the image and the job specification and convert these components of the file into an instruction for the printer hardware; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

conveying said commands to a print engine, and forming said images in response to said commands (i.e. the marker (112) is used to send the instructions of the print file to the printer hardware in order for the printer hardware to accept the instructions and print the image that is described by the instructions; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 15: Pavlovic '379 discloses a print device, comprising:

a formatter configured to pool a batch of print data (i.e. in the conventional system, the decomposed print jobs can be stored on the buffer on the decomposer until it is requested by other parts of the printing system. Used in the system of Pavlovic '379 is common image pools or buffer managers that can store more information to free up the decomposer; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), wherein said batch includes a plurality of print jobs (i.e. in the system, the files are considered as a print job since these involve forming at least one image per format. The system can provide for a plurality of files in the system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61);

a processor having an imaging component residing thereon (i.e. the system controller is used as the processor and the processor performs the feature of the imaging component, which is the evaluation or the interpretation of the job specification. Therefore, the system control performs the feature of the imaging component; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61), wherein said imaging component is configured to access batch information about said batch, including print media type, image size, image processing time, or image forming time (i.e. the system control accesses the files in the spool (106) and checks the job specification that is related to each file. The job specification is used to help determine functions in relation to the files that are combined into one print job; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61, col. 6, In 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42) and

based on said batch information, to independently determine a pick order for different types of print media to be used for different print jobs, (i.e. based on the job description, the size or type of paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The

paper picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67 and col. 6, ln 4-55),

independently determine a transfer order for transferring rasterized print job data to said imaging component (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and to perform this transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order. With the stapling function and the different data streams taken into account, the different print jobs are submitted to the printing device in a certain order. In the system, the common image pool is used to store decompressed bitmap images. These images can be given to the printing hardware directly from the common image pool in the order in which they are requested by the marker. Also, since the jobs can have different load conditions, the jobs can be transferred to the marker in different manners as well; see figs. 1-3; col. 5, ln 9-col. 6, ln 55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

independently determine a delivery order of said print jobs (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and

stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system. However, the output tray, considered as the output portion, is chosen only based on the evaluation of the job specification. Therefore, the independent determination of delivering sheets to a certain tray is performed by the system control (108); see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42); and

such that the picking order, the transfer order, and the delivery order are each distinct from one another (i.e. since the decision to pick a certain media sheet, transfer a job in different manners to the marker depending on the load conditions and to place a printed job on a certain output tray is based solely on the evaluation of the job description by the system control (108) and these determinations do not have any affect any of the above determinations, the pick, transfer and delivery order are all performed independently of one another; see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42); and

a print engine configured form images on a plurality of media corresponding to said print jobs (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets in relation to the files in the system, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the print device of claim 15, wherein said formatter is configured to perform raster image processing (i.e. the decomposers or decomposition facility (110) is used to decompress data and convert data into a uncompressed bitmap, since the PDL information is converted into the bitmap information to be printed by the printer hardware; see figs. 1-3; col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 36).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the print device of claim 15, wherein said print engine comprises an inkjet print head (i.e. with the system able to perform printing using an ink-jet marking engine, it is understood that a ink-jet print head would be used with the ink-jet marking engine; see figs. 1-3; col. 4, line 1 – col. 5, line 36).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the print device of claim 15, wherein said print engine is configured to pick said media according to said pick order (i.e. in the system, the system control is in the printer system and printer hardware is used to feed the print media from a certain tray when the printer hardware is instructed by the system control; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61) and to deliver said media according to said delivery order (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets and to deliver these images to the finisher part of the printing

system to provide finishing capability to the sheets, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 19: Pavlovic '379 discloses a printing system, comprising:

means for evaluating characteristics of a print batch (i.e. the system control (108) is used to evaluate, or interpret, the job description of the file, considered to be the characteristics, and use this information to determine properties of the file or files in the overall print job; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61); and

means for independently determining a pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size and type of paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67 and col. 6, ln 4-55),

independently determining a transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and to perform this transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets, the stream handles are called in reverse order. Also, since the jobs can have different load conditions, the jobs can be transferred to

the marker in different manners as well, thus changing the transfer order; see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

independently determining a delivery order (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system. However, the output tray, considered as the output portion, is chosen only based on the evaluation of the job specification. Therefore, the independent determination of delivering sheets to a certain tray is performed by the system control (108); see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42),

based on said characteristics (i.e. these functions are all dependent on the job description and data stream content sent to the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

wherein the picking order, the transfer order, and the delivery order are either distinct from one another or the same as one another (i.e. since the decision to pick a certain media sheet, transfer a job in different manners to the marker depending on the load conditions and to place a printed job on a certain output tray is based solely on the evaluation of the job description by the system control (108) and these determinations

Art Unit: 2625

do not have any affect any of the above determinations, the pick, transfer and delivery order are all performed independently of one another; see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the system of claim 19, and further comprising means for picking media according to said pick order (i.e. once the sheet to use is determined from the system control, the printing system is notified of the tray to feed the paper to be used to feed the media in order to print on the sheet; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61),

transferring print jobs of said print batch according to said transfer order (i.e. using the stream handles that are designated by the system control to the buffer manager (120), the system transfers the print files from the buffer or pool to the printer hardware for printing according to the order chosen by the system control though the buffer; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

delivering said media according to said delivery order (i.e. the sheets with the printed images are also delivered to the finishing part of the printing system in the same order as the printing files where sent to the printing hardware for printing; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the system of claim 19, and further comprising means for forming an image on said media (i.e. since the printer hardware is used to perform the feature of printing the images on printing sheets in relation to the files in the system, the above feature is performed; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 (US Pat No 7092117).

Re claim 1: Pavlovic '379 discloses a method of processing a print batch in a print device, comprising:

storing a plurality of print jobs contained in said print batch (i.e. Pavlovic '379 discloses the spool (106) being used to store the print job's PDL, which can include the actual image data to be printed and the job description. The files used to produce an image can be considered as a job since these separate files in different formats correspond to the formation of an individual image per file; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67);

evaluating said characteristics of said print jobs (i.e. the system control (108) is used to evaluate, or interpret, the job description of the file, considered to be the characteristics, and use this information to determine properties of the file or files in the overall print job; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61 and col. 6, ln 4-55); and

independently determining a pick order (i.e. based on the job description, the size and type of paper to be used is picked by the printing system. The paper picked is from the paper trays used to feed print media into the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67 and col. 6, ln 4-55),

independently determining a transfer order (i.e. in the system, the different decomposers have different rates of decomposition depending on the complexity of the image data and other factors. However, the order of the print files being transferred to the printer hardware (114) is based on the stream handles assigned by the buffer manager (120). In the example listed in column 9, since the pages of the formats require stapling, the system determines to first transfer stream handle IV to the printer hardware and to perform this transfer in reverse order to stream handle I. Because of the characteristic of stapling the sheets and the stream handles, the pages to be stapled are called in reverse order. Also, since the jobs can have different load conditions, the jobs can be transferred to the marker in different manners as well, thus changing the transfer order; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42), and

independently determining a delivery order (i.e. since the files transferred to the printer hardware are in reverse order, the delivery of the respective files to be printed

and finished by the printer hardware and the finisher are also in reverse order. In this case, the job in the last format, Postscript file 2, is printed and stapled first since the pages are stacked face-up and stapled in the correct order with the first job on top of the rest of the finished files. This process determines when the printed images are to be sent to the finisher part of the printing system. However, the output tray, considered as the output portion, is chosen only based on the evaluation of the job specification. Therefore, the independent determination of delivering sheets to a certain tray is performed by the system control (108); see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42)

based, at least in part, on said characteristics (i.e. these functions are all dependent on the job description sent to the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46—col. 3, line 67),

such that the picking order, the transfer order, and the delivery order are each distinct from one another (i.e. since the decision to pick a certain media sheet, transfer a job in different manners to the marker depending on the load conditions and to place a printed job on a certain output tray is based solely on the evaluation of the job description by the system control (108) and these determinations do not have any affect any of the above determinations, the pick, transfer and delivery order are all performed independently of one another; see figs. 1-3; col. 6, ln 4-55 and col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

However, Pavlovic '379 fails to specifically teach storing characteristics of a plurality of print jobs.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kageyama '117. Kageyama '117 discloses storing characteristics of a plurality of print jobs (i.e. shown in figure 5 are job tickets, which have the characteristics of a certain job and these are stored with their respective job in the archive within the printer; see fig. 5; col. 5, line 7 – col. 6, line 5).

Therefore, in view of Kageyama '117, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method step of storing characteristics of a plurality of print jobs in order to store a job ticket in the archive for a document (as stated in Kageyama '117 col. 5, lines 7-65).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

However, Pavlovic '379 fails to teach the method of claim 1, wherein said characteristics are stored on a memory storage device.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Kageyama '117. Kageyama '117 discloses said characteristics are stored on a memory storage device (i.e. since the archive is used to store information inside the printer, it is understood that the archive is a memory storage device present on the printer; see fig. 5; col. 5, line 7 – col. 6, line 5).

Therefore, in view of Kageyama '117, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method step of said characteristics are stored on a memory storage device in order to store a job ticket in the archive for a document (as stated in Kageyama '117 col. 5, lines 7-65).

Re claim 3: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said characteristics comprise an image receiving media type (i.e. the job description has the type of media that will receive the image; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61), an image size, an image processing time, or an image forming time.

Re claim 4: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 1, wherein evaluating said characteristics is carried out by a processor residing on said print device (i.e. on the printing system, the system control (108), which is considered as a controller, is used to evaluate or interpret the job description that is transmitted to the printing system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Art Unit: 2625

Re claim 5: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 4, wherein said processor comprises an imaging component (i.e. in the printing system, the printer hardware (114) is considered as the imaging component since it prints the image on the sheet; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 6: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising forming at least one image corresponding to each of said print jobs on an image receiving media (i.e. in the system, there is at least one image that corresponds to each format in the files that are being printed. These images are printed on a certain type of sheet that is described in the job description part of the files sent to the printer system; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, line 46 — col. 4, line 61).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Pavlovic '379 in view of Kageyama '117 are disclosed above.

Pavlovic '379 discloses the method of claim 6, wherein said images are formed according to said delivery order (i.e. the images in the system are formed due to the

order in which the stream handles are chosen by the system. The order of the images being formed is based on the order in which the stream handles are picked and the delivery of the print jobs to the printer hardware is the same as the delivery to the finisher; see figs. 1-3; col. 7, line 10 – col. 10, line 42).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. Shiohara '754 (US Pat No 6822754) discloses a system where the information related to the print job such as the type of page used for recording, the type of printing (color or monochrome) and other attribute information that is considered when choosing where to transfer print data information to a certain printer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

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